SUPPORT THE RESISTANCE CONSPIRACY CASE

Photo by JEB

Stop Preventive Detention — Release Laura Whitehorn on Bail

Laura Whitehorn should be out on bail. Instead she is a political prisoner who has just completed her second year in preventive detention. **Two years** awaiting trial — without a sentence, without a bond. Why? Because Laura Whitehorn has been a political activist, a revolutionary anti-imperialist and a lesbian since the 60's and has never stopped fighting for justice and human rights. Because she is known and respected for her years of work against the war in Vietnam, for her solidarity with the Black liberation struggle and as an organizer in the Women's liberation movement. Because Laura is a defendant in a political show trial brought by the Meese justice department. She and 5 other long-time activists are on trial in Washington, D.C. in the Resistance Conspiracy Case. They are charged with resistance against the U.S. war machine including the 1983 bombing of the U.S. Capitol in response to the invasion of Grenada, and other attacks on military and government property which resulted in no injuries to anyone.

For these reasons the U.S. government claims that Laura Whitehorn is a "danger to the community" just as they have done with 38 other political prisoners since 1984. Filiberto Ojeda Rios, a Puerto Rican independentista has now spent over 3 years in preventive detention and is the only person now held under this status longer than Laura. However, many of these activists have eventually been *acquitted* at trial or released on bail following international campaigns. What the government really means is that they consider Laura and other political prisoners like her to be a danger to *their* "community": the crowd that hangs out on Wall Street, in the Pentagon or in the gun clubs with the KKK; that managed the contra war against Nicaragua; that wants martial law in D.C. and at the same time pumps crack into the streets; that has stood by and watched 50,000 people die of AIDS in the country. *Their* "community."

Our community — the community of women, of poor and working class people, of lesbian and gay men, of oppressed nations fighting for liberation inside and outside the borders of the U.S. — could have no better friends or allies than the 150 political prisoners and prisoners of war now held in U.S. prisons.

Our community demands that Laura Whitehorn be released on bail so that she can fight the government's charges. The right to bail is recognized around the world as a basic human right, not a privilege for the rich. The 1984 "No Bail" law has eliminated this right for thousands of mostly Black and other Third World people who get swept up into the "criminal justice system" and especially those whom the government sees as its political enemies. Preventive detention is part of a program of political repression. It is a step in the direction of the internment laws of South Africa and must be fought.

Fight for those who fight for you!
Free all political prisoners and prisoners of war!

Washington Area Committee for Political Prisoners Rights • P.O. Box 28191, Washington, D.C. 20038-8191

RESISTANCE IS NOT A CRIME!